

Date: 21 August 2020

Local Nursing and Midwifery Award finalists announced

Nurses and midwives from the Hunter New England Local Health District are among 24 statewide finalists nominated for the 2020 NSW Health Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Awards.

The finalists have been selected from nominations across seven categories, which recognise nurses and midwives who have made a difference in clinical practice, management and leadership.

Joanne Blake from Tamworth has been named as a finalist in the Midwife of the Year category.

Joanne works as a Clinical Midwife Specialist with Tamworth Community Health's Aboriginal Mothers and Babies Service. She is a dedicated and competent midwife who places mothers, babies and their families at the centre of care.

Neisha Manning from Maitland has been named as a finalist in the Aboriginal Nurse/Midwife of the Year category.

Neisha consistently maintains the highest standards for all mothers and babies in the provision of quality, safe, compassionate and culturally appropriate healthcare.

Angie Newton from Armidale has been named as a finalist in the Healing Heart Award for exceptional care (Nursing/Midwifery).

Angie is a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Palliative Care with Armidale Community Health Services.

Hunter New England Health's Executive Director, Nursing and Midwifery Services, Elizabeth Grist said the awards recognise the contribution and dedication of nurses and midwives working in the NSW public health system, who this year have been facing the additional challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"These awards are an opportunity to honour nurses and midwives across NSW who go above and beyond and make a real difference not only within their teams but, most importantly, to the patients they care for," Ms Grist said.

Each Local Health District and Specialty Network nominated their nurses and midwives in six award categories.

NSW community members were eligible to vote for the Healing Heart consumer award, the seventh category, which recognises nurses and midwives who deliver outstanding patient care and support for families and carers.

This year, in line with COVID-19 safety measures, the Awards ceremony will be virtual. Nurses, midwives, their families and the broader community will be able to watch the Award show, which will be streamed on November 26.

There are more than 53,000 nurses and midwives working in NSW Health hospitals and health services.

The NSW Government is investing \$2.8 billion to recruit 8300 extra frontline staff over the next three years, including an additional 5000 more nurses and midwives.

For more information on the 2020 Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Awards click [here](#).